ൻകയറി (enquiry) നടത്തി അതനുസരിച്ചുള്ള മേൽ നടപടി ഗവണ്മെൻറു നടത്തുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൻ ഇതിൽ കൂടുതലായ ഒരധികാരം ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നു നിങ്ങാം പ്രസ്താവിക്കയുണ്ടായി. ആ ഭാഗവും ലാമെന്വക്കയച്ചു ഇപ്പോാം കൊണ്ടുവരാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന ബില്ലിൽ ചേക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ എന്നു ചോദിക്കാം.

പിന്നെ ഒന്നു നിങ്ങാം പറഞ്ഞതു് മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റികാം മിക്ക സമയത്തും ജനങ്ങാക്കുപയോഗമായ വഴികളിൽ മാത്രമല്ല പണം ചിലവാക്കുന്നതു്, നേരെ മറിച്ചു്, അനാവശ്യമായ വഴികളിൽക്കൂടി പണംചിലവാക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്; ഉപയോഗമായ വഴികളിൽ പണം ചിലവാക്കാൻ അവർ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നില്ല, എന്നാണു്. ഈ ന്യൂനതയെ പരിഹരിക്കേണ്ടതു് അതാതു മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റികളിൽ അംഗങ്ങളായിവരുന്നവരുടേയും അവരെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തയക്കുന്ന ജനങ്ങളുടെയും മുമതലയാണു. അവരുടെ അനുവാദം ഇല്ലാതെ മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിക്കു പണം ചിലവാക്കാൻ അധികാരമില്ല. എന്നാൽ ഈ വക സംഗതികാം ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ അറിവിൽ പെടുന്നപക്ഷം അതിലേക്കു വേണ്ട നടപടിനടത്താം.

ശേഷം നിങ്ങാം പറഞ്ഞ കാര്യങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റിയെല്ലാം ആലോചിക്കാം.

[The draft of a Bill to amend the existing Municipal Regulation is under preparation and your suggestions will also be sent to the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil for consideration. Action is even now taken by Government where necessary under Section 248 of the Regulation. The amendments in the law relating to the removal of Presidents and Councillors proposed by you will also be referred to the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil. You said that Municipal funds were being wasted or misapplied. It is the duty of the members and the ratepayers to prevent such irregularities ; and if such instances come to the notice of Government, action will be taken. The other points of your representation will be considered.]

77. Needs of the Tovala taluk.

MR. KANAKKU ARUMUGAPERUMAL PILLAI MATHEVAN PILLAI (*Tovala taluk*) said that agriculture was the mainstay of life to the people in Travancore and more so in Nanjinad. Hence it was the duty of the Government to find out means for the improvement of the condition of the agriculturists of the country. Speaking particularly of Nanjinad, the after-effects of the promulgation of the Nanjinad Vellala Regulation were distressing. Added to this, the present economic depression, the fall in the price of produce and the scarcity of money in the land had made the condition of the agriculturists

deplorable. The member suggested that immediate relief should be afforded to them in the following directions :—

Great difficulty was experienced in getting green leaf manure and timber for agricultural implements, from the forest owing to the stringency of the Forest Regulation. At present, the Veerapuli reserve was the only place from which the ryots could get these things. For this they had to get a pass from the authorities at Thadikarankonam, many miles away from the Reserve Forest. The paddy fields were also situated 15 to 20 miles away from the forest from which the materials required had to be brought at a heavy cost of conveyance. To remedy this evil, the low lands of forest areas should be made the supplying centre of leaf manure. It would be better if a few depots were opened to store and sell to the ryots, on reasonable terms, leaf manures and implements. As this manure was needed only for wet lands and as it was utilised only once a year, the depots had to be kept open only for a couple of months every year.

The restoration and maintenance of the irrigation tanks of Nanjinad deserved better attention. But ever since the construction of the Pachipara Reservoir, these tanks were left uncared for. Even portions of the tanks had of late been allotted for the habitation of the depressed classes. The tank beds were auctioned away. These tanks were essential as storage tanks for the regular water supply to the fields. Hence an immediate survey of all the irrigation tanks in Nanjinad should be conducted, so as to enable a detailed investigation into the connecting links between the channels and the tanks, and also to systematise the annual maintenance of all sluices, culverts, surplus escapes etc. To remedy the hardships caused to the ryots by the scarcity of water in the Pachipara Reservoir, which often happened, minor reservoirs should be constructed for the storage of water. The existing tanks should be properly maintained. The shallow tank beds should be deepened, the tank bunds should be raised to keep off drainage water and the escapes should be properly maintained to allow surplus water to find its way out. It was enough if the tanks were improved one by one, completing the tanks of one *pakuthi* first and then taking up those of another.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Mathevan Pillai. As regards tanks, you know that the Government's policy at present is not to sell any more tanks in Nanjinad. The existing tanks which are considered useful for irrigation are being maintained from year to year, and wherever necessary money is being spent for their conservation.

You then mentioned the difficulty which the agriculturists of Nanjinad have to experience to get manure leaves. I am glad to be able to tell you that some of the agriculturists of Nanjinad have agreed to take on lease forest lands round their paddy lands for planting manure trees. It seems to me that, if that idea is caught by the people and all available space of that description is planted with manure trees, it would better solve the difficulty than any permission to roam about

the forest in search of any kind of leaf to make the surface look green without giving it adequate manure.

As regards agricultural implements, you yourself admitted in the course of your representation that even now timber useful to the agriculturists for making implements is being stored in various timber depots and sold to the agriculturists at cost price. It seems to me this is more advantageous than giving people permission to go to the forests and to cut and carry timber.

The P. W. Department is doing its best to conserve the water that comes into the Pachipara Reservoir and all sources of leakage are being closed. It is expected that these measures will ensure a larger and steadier supply from the reservoir.

Your suggestions will be considered.

78. Needs of Nanjinad.

MR. GURUNATHA MARTHANDA NADAR (*Nominated*) who made his representation in Tamil, spoke about the reduction of the tax on *pandarapattom* and other lands. Since the last Settlement, the prices of most of the articles had gone down, and the yield of the lands had decreased; yet the tax on the lands had not been reduced. The result was that the ryots cultivating small holdings were running into debt and were not able to cultivate their holdings. The subject had been represented many a time in the Assembly, but the Dewan replied that the suggestions would be considered at the next Settlement. The member regretted that even though 30 years had elapsed since the last Settlement, the Re-settlement had not been started, and that though the revenues of the State had increased in other directions during the time, nothing had been done to alleviate the sufferings of the ryots in this respect. The member therefore repeated the request made at the previous sessions of the Assembly that the tax on *pandarapattom* and other lands should be reduced and also desired to know the date of the next Settlement.

The next point that was referred to was about the hardships caused to the ryots cultivating lands classed as 'irregular conversions'. Although only one crop was raised, these ryots had to pay tax for two crops and even then water was not allowed to them in sufficient quantities. When there was failure of crops, they had to pay half the tax. The member therefore urged that either those lands which had been classed as irregular conversions till 1106 be regrouped and classified as regular conversions or that the tax be reduced.

The necessity for deepening, widening and repairing the following tanks was mentioned :—

(i) Muthaliyarkulam,
(ii) Variyoor puthukulam,
(iii) Pranthaneri and
(iv) Kurisiadikulam.